Slashing of prices of essential drugs by companies

†292. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drugs manufacturer companies in the country have offered Government to slash prices of 354 essential drugs;

(b) if so, the facts regarding thereto and whether certain conditions have also been attached with this offer; and

(c) if so, details of these conditions alongwith the names of these 354 essential drugs and the price percentage of every drug that has been offered to be slashed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A Joint Committee with majority of the members from the drug industry has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (C&PC) to suggest various initiatives for making available medicines (including medicines in National List of Essential Medicines - 2003) to common man at reasonable prices.

No concrete offer on price reduction of essential medicines under National List of Essential Medicines - 2003 has been made by the Joint Committee.

The drug policies of the Government as amended from time to time are directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the consumers in the country.

Reduction of medicine prices

293. DR. **M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cut down the prices of about 886 medicines;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.